# Commercial



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## AT THE ORPHEUM.

#### A Good House and First Class Performance Last Night.

One of the old-time houses turned out at the Orpheum last night and thoroughly enjoyed the program. It was "nigger night" on the stage; regular coon carnival, with the colored quartet, the coon songs of Miss Dixon and Miss Beresford, and the closing act of "Samanthy's Birthday."

Antonio Pirri introduced some new features, balancing a heavy cart wheel, a kitchen table or a light paper cornucopia with apparently equal ease. The Richards produce the best sketch they have yet presented, while Mrs. Beresford and her two little picaninnies scored a deserved success. The quartet made a hit, both from a musical and comedy point of view. Miss Dixon and her living octave caught the popular fancy and was obliged to sing three songs before the audience seemed at all satiated with the novelty. The animated song sheet is a clever idea, accentuated by the singing and

cake-walking of the artist. The closing act, "Samanthy's Birthday," showed some signs of over eagerness, but contained an unlimited amount of laugh-making material with all the regulation characters of negro life. The old man, the "pahson," the fiddler, were all there with banjos, chickens and razors galore.

Despite the "three nights only" arrangement this week's receipts should loom up larger than those of the past month. The program is throughout an excellent one well worth a visit to see, hear and enjoy.

# Fy Way of 'Frisco.

A traveling salesman who works for a local firm has hit upon an idea to get to Mani and Hawaii. Sicne the rule that no more passengers are allowed to leave this port for the other Islands he has booked for the Coast and will make the round trip. Arriving here on a clean vessel, he will be shipped to Maui and Hawaii. Since the rule This takes a little longer time, but ? even with the expenses of the round upstairs; carries a full line of ALL trip to the Coast it is much cheaper KINDS OF GLASSES from the CHEAPEST to the BEST. Free exvogue heretofore.

# Queen's Letter to Wolseley.

#### Great Outcry Raised by the Candidacy of a Boer Soldier For Parliament.

LONDON, Feb. 24.-Queen Victoria's ley, appealing to retired officers and soldiers to place their services once a particularly warm spot in her heart more at the disposal of the crown for for her soldiers, who have invariably the period of twelve months, is in no stood higher in her good graces than sense of the word unconstitutional, as Specialty; PROMPT REMIT- has been asserted by a number of newspapers on both sides of the At- of the menner in which the command-lantic, for her private secretary ex- er in thief has been overridden and igpressly states in his letter to the commander in chief that "Her Majesty is Lord Wolseley to Windsor and to Osadelphia, will give lessons in all advised," which means that she is act- borne, consulting him about every kinds of Art Embroidery, Marie An- ing in the matter in accordance with feature of the campaign without actoinette, Flemish, and Point Lace at the recommendations of her constitu- cording any attention to the Minister, tional advisers, namely, the Ministers of the crown.

That this communication should be wise in the normal order of things. This functionary is no mere clerk, but a very gallant officer, a knight of the Order of the Bath, who is to such an extent in the trust of the sovereign that he is frequently chosen by the Queen to convey to the Premier and to the other Ministers confidential instructions and commands, which it is found inconvenient to commit to pa-

So distinguished is Sir Arthur Bigge that, like his predecessor, the late Sir Henry Ponsonby, he enjoys the complete confidence of the leaders of both the great political parties, none of whom ever dream of questioning his right or usefulness in acting as the channel, not merely of the greater part of the sovereign's instructions, but likewise of the confidential matters and secrets of state that have to be communicated to her.

## Queen's Prerogatives.

The Queen is entirely within her constitutional right in calling to arms her retired officers and soldiers, and in directing that they should be incorcording to the terms of the British constitution, the sovereign is general-

issimo, or the first in the military command of the British Empire, and in this capacity has the sole and exclusive power of raising and regulating armies and fleets. This prerogative was disputed and claimed by the so-called Long Parliament of King Charles I., but upon the restoration it was solemnly declared by both Crown ant Parliament to be vested in the sovereign alone.

Of course, the payment of any forces thus raised by the Crown has ultimately to be provided by Parliament, which, in this way, may be said to control the action of the sovereign in the matter. But the first step must be taken by the monarch, who alone posthe power of initiative in affairs of this kind.

. That the letter should have been addressed to Lord Wolseley is due to the fact that to him have been delegated the administrative duties of commander in chief, which in reality belongs to the sovereign. Lord Wolseley holds He Talks About His Coming Experihis office under the sign manual of the Queen, and not by virtue of any appointment on the part of the Secre tary of State for War or of the Cabinet. He is, in fact, her delegate and, therefore, it is perfectly natural that she should communicate with him emarkable letter, addressed through about the raising of this new force, her private secretary to Lord Wolse- rather than with the Secretary of State

Moreover, the Queen has always had civilians, and since the beginning of the war in South Africa she has time and again manifested her disapproval nored by the Secretary of State for War by repeatedly inviting the veteran namely, the Marquis of Lansdowne.

#### War Blunders.

The Queen seems to have realized in Tailor-Made Evening. Dinner addressed to Lord Wolseley through from the first that the errors and misthe Queen's private secretary is like- takes which resulted in the humiliating large, blue-eyed, brown-haired, gentle reverse during the early part of the present war were due to the altogether inexcusable and even unconstitutional manner in which the control of the conduct of the campaign was usurped by the Secretary of State for War and the other members of the Cabinet, who had formed themselves into a sort of subcommittee of national defense, and who took upon themselves to entirely override and ignore military experts, ple. such as Lord Wolseley, the commanderin-chief. The tide in South Africa has only turned and defeat been transformed into success since the military authorities in Pall Mall and South crown, become paramount.

It is difficult to believe that the Queen ing upon the retired officers and menthan that supplied by the militia and wholly wrong. porated into a special force known as the immense volunteer force, number-the Royal Reserve Battalions, for, ac- ing in the United Kingdom consider- of strictly religious fiction is found in

(Continued on Page %)

# Editor Sheldon's Views Reported.

# THE TOPEKA CAPITAL MAN

# ment and of Many Cognate Themes.

CHICAGO, Feb. 25 .- During a conversation with Mr. Charles M. Sheldon, the famous author of "In His Steps," who is soon to try the experiment of running the Topeka Daily Capital for a week as Jesus would, he talked freely of his coming experiment and of his work as a religious novelist and Gos- a great future?" pel preacher.

car on the Santa Fe Limited, just as this unexplored land of incomparable Mr. Sheldon was leaving Chicago for richness. Every year wal find more his home in Topeka, Kan. He was accompanied by his wife, a vivacious, one of the most powerful forces, next charming, brown-eyed woman, who has to the church, for promulgating the doubtless invented many of the scenes principles given us by Christ." and characters in his writings and inspired many of his unique schemes.

In appearance Mr. Sheldon is a typi cal Celt. Ruddy of countenance, tall, in manner, deliberate-in speech.

said: when and where this form of fiction and most lasting success.' was born. It is doubtless as old as any Africa have, in deference to public other kind of story-telling-that is, as opinion and to the commands of the old as man. The folk tales of all prim- not travel too extensively. The man ligious. Christ used the short relig- study the habits of all peoples in all would have resorted to the step of call- lous story in the shape of the parable, lands. Now that expansion is in the as the chief vehicle for conveying his air; now that science, commerce and that is to say, not the ordinary re- ideas to the world. Why it has been caristianity have opened the whole serves, but the veterans-of her army so little used for the advancing the world to our gaze, there is no land to to rejoin the colors had not both her kingdom since the dawn of Christian-Majesty and her government become ity, it is hard to explain. Sir Walter his readers to their delight and interaware that her empire would ere long Scott went so far as to say that fiction est. be brought face to face with a danger should have no moral mission-its against which some more efficient, and chief function was to amuse, not to fact that "In His Steps" was written above all, skilled, defense was needed instruct or inspire. But Scott was

> the writings of Mrs. Alden (Pansy). She has done more than any other per-

son to break down the prejudice against fiction which was one of the heritages handed down from our Puritan forefathers."

"What would you say of 'The Christian,' by Hall Caine? Is that a religious novel?"

Yes, I suppose that would be called religious fiction. But it is not exactly the sort I am trying to construct. I do not consider it a fair or true picture of the Christianity of today. It is not such a book as one would like to read

from the pulpit. "You see my books are built with two central ideas, which run through every line of them; they must be suitable for Sunday reading; they must be suitable for reading from the pulpit." "May not Mr. Caine's books be valnable as religious fiction for week-day

reading?" I asked. 'Yes, doubtiess," said Mr. Sheldon, I appreciate Mr. Caine. I believe he is an earnest and sincere man. I bid him God speed in his efforts,"

'And what would you say of 'Quo Vadis' as a religious novel?" I asked. "I should not call it ideal by any means. He has brought in a great mass of sensational, b.ood-and-thunder material that might far better have been omitted. There are passages in the book that one would be ashamed to read before the family circle. I do not think there is any necessity for dragging into religious fiction-or any other, for that matter-details that would bring a blush to a young girl's face." "Then you think religious fiction has

"I am sure of it," said Mr. Sheldon enthusiastically. "It is as yet in its The interview occurred in a sleeping- infancy. We are just on the edge of people using this agency. In the twentieth century I belie it will be

"What training should one undergo to write successful religious fiction?" "The twentieth century novelist will is the novelist's treasure chest, ideal training should be this: should study at first hand every class of people living upon the face of the After talking a few moments about earth. He should live among them, the wonderful success of "In His Steps" sympathize with them, find out what -which, it is estimated, has been read they think and how they feel. I do not mean that one should live with crimby 20,000,000 people-I asked Mr. Shel- inals or associate with evil-doers-for don about the origin and evolution of by the magic power of sympathy he the religious novel, of which "In His can understand the hearts of these Steps" is the most conspicuous exam- people, while really he will have little occasion to describe their doings in de-In reply, speaking slowly and care- tail. But know the various classes of fully, as is his custom, Mr. Sheidon men one must," exclaimed Mr. Sheidon, "It would be difficult to tell "if he is going to achieve the largest

"Then wide travel is desirable?" "Certainly. The writer of fiction can itive people were all more or less re- who wants an ideal training should w...ch the novelist may not transport

> Here the conversation drifted to the and preached on successive Sunday evenings, the various chapters of the novel taking the place of sermons. In regard to this daring innovation on his part, Mr. sheldon said: "I may say as part of my experience

that I have enlarged my definition of a sermon to mean almost any conveyance by means of which whatever is Christian truth to me goes from me in.o the daily lives of my people." Inen, speaking of how "In His Steps" was born, he said: "I wrote 'In His Steps' with a great

desire, a prayer with every sentence, that it might be the power of God to open up a new thought of Christian discipleship. "Do you expect the sermon-story to

be largely adopted by the American pulpit?" I asked. "I see no reason why it should not

be. It offers an opportunity to apply Carist's teachings to modern life in a practical manner that is denied by the ordinary sermon. If I should attempt to deal with problems of business, economics and civics, from the viewpoint of Christ, in a sermon, the cry would at once arise, 'You are not preaching the Gospel.' In a sermonstory or religious novel they welcome such things. It is merely returning to Christ's method of teaching by the concrete instead of the abstract, the parable and story, instead of the philosophic discussion, and the former is a hundredford more effective than the

"Do you know of any others who have tried the plan?" g minister in Topeka great success. He mig the story of a business man-nis trials, encouragements, victory, living the Christ life. The people attended his services in throngs, its marked success was a surprise, both to the young minister and his congregation. He had not supposed he had the talent to write a serial story. But I encouraged him in the effort, urring him to follow real life and make it exceedingly simple. Why, it does not take genius to write a story!" exclaimed Mr. She.don. "All one needs is to watch life closely and

"The field is illimitable," he continued, "and I hope the ministry of America will very generally adopt this method of instruction. Already, I have received letters from preachers in different parts of the country saying they

tell its doings simply and sympathetic-

expect to try the plan. (Continued on Page 3.)

# RESULTS OF RETRENCHMENT.



POSTMASTER OAT -- (To Taxpayer) -- I am sorry, but the boy hasn't finished distributing the mail yet If you will call around about the middle of the month, you will probably g-t something